

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

BUGS AND POTATO ROT.

We have received a line from our friend A. Fiske of Fayette, in which he gives a brief statement of his theory of the potato rot, attributing it to the action of an insect—a bug, which is now somewhat abundant in many fields. We do not come into his belief in this respect, having seen that same "bug" on potatoes where, and long before the potato rot was heard of.

However, as Mr. Fiske is an observing man, and pretty ingenious in his theories and explanations, we will give an abstract of his communication, and our readers can examine and judge for themselves.

Let, says he, go among your potato vines, and you will find many leaves withered and coiled up. Tap the leaf gently, and you will discover a *ras-*
cal of a bug, or a fly, stealing out from under the leaf. He is a flat, poison looking fellow with black wings, dotted with white, much of the size and shape of a three months old bed bug.

2d. Look at the stem of the leaf and observe an enlargement on the underside, where it had received a bite from said bug.

3d. Examine same leaf two or three days after, and you will find it discolored. Take your penknife and split it endways, and you find that it appears like a diseased potato, extending from where it received the wound downward.

4th. Continue your investigations through the season and you will arrive at the same conclusion that I have, viz., that this poisonous bug, makes an incision in the stem of the leaf of the vine, and injects poison. That this increases, and is circulated throughout the tops of vines with the sap, and finally finds its way to the potato through the stem, following in the sap channel, viz., about 1 of an inch under the surface through the potato, making its appearance on the surface whenever it happens. Friend Fiske thinks the extent of the injury to the potato depends much upon the kind of dressing used as well as the season, kind of soil, &c. &c.

Another Goon Cow. "Brindle" writes us that Mr. Reuben Ham, of Fayette, has a cow, 12 years old, that averaged during the fortnight ending June 27, 39 pounds of milk per day, on grass alone. "If young Androscoggin," says our correspondent, "can beat that, Old Kennebec will try again, as she has a few more of the same sort."

lbs.

New York,	10,557,484
Ohio,	4,588,209
Michigan,	2,439,794
New Hampshire,	1,298,863
Massachusetts,	795,325
Illinois,	248,864
Maine,	93,452
Vermont,	6,349,357
Indiana,	2,931,921
Pennsylvania,	2,356,528
Virginia,	1,277,665
Kentucky,	437,405
Missouri,	178,919
Tennessee,	158,557

The Tribune estimates that the product of 1857 will not be less than double the above, or 70,000,000 lbs., which, at 10 cents a pound, a low valuation, would be worth \$7,000,000.

ANOTHER GOON COW. "Brindle" writes us that Mr. Reuben Ham, of Fayette, has a cow, 12 years old, that averaged during the fortnight ending June 27, 39 pounds of milk per day, on grass alone. "If young Androscoggin," says our correspondent, "can beat that, Old Kennebec will try again, as she has a few more of the same sort."

For the Maine Farmer.

FEEDING MOWING LANDS IN AUTUMN.

MR. EDITOR.—My motive in writing this communication is to elicit, if possible, articles from old experienced farmers, who, from not being accustomed to communicate their ideas by writing, judge themselves unqualified to commit their experience, even in farming, to paper. Now I tell to the old adage, that, in farming, as in every thing else, "Experience is the best school-master."

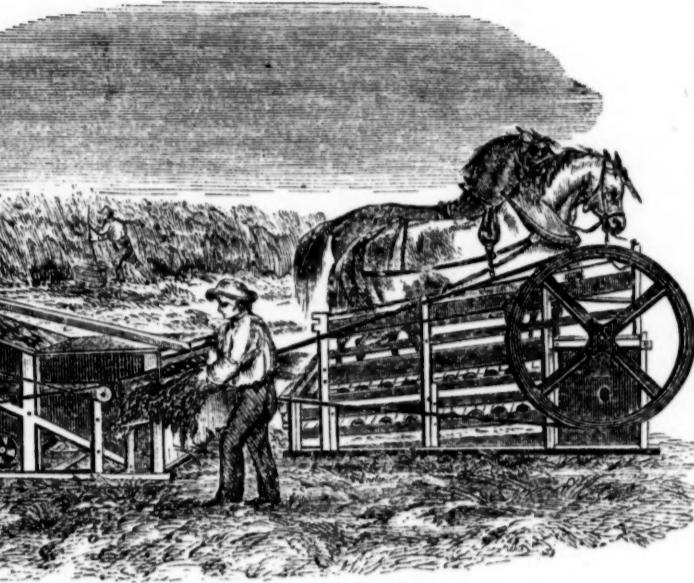
At this fast period in the world's history, when everything goes by steam, we seem to need something more to stay ourselves upon, than anticipated improvements, (not that I would discourage improvement in any of the thousand and one forms which are continually being presented to the public.) Hence the necessity of long tried experience, to counterbalance the effects of imaginary, or untried theory. Thus much for an introduction, now for my experience in regard to getting mowing land in autumn.

Twenty years ago, I purchased an old, and somewhat worn out field, near my farm. I had supposed, and the theory was generally believed in the neighborhood, that mowing land would not only hold its own, but would gradually improve, by merely being kept from feeding. In accordance with this view, I suffered not a hoof to touch the soil. The result proved I was sadly mistaken.

On entering the field the next hay season, what was my surprise to find the old fog still visible, with the spires of grass hardly near enough to be called neighbors, which rendered it nearly impossible to mow what grass there was.

Still I was not satisfied, but held on to my opinion another year, and still another, with yet more unprofitable results. I then thought it time to adopt some other method, and my subsequent experience goes to prove, to my satisfaction, that feeding, to a certain extent, even to short feeding, when the ground is in a proper state, that is, when not too soft, is not only not hurtful, but is really beneficial.

This will hold good in regard to close mowing. Some people think that close mowing is detrimental to the field. My experience teaches the contrary, viz.: that high mowing is detrimental. My argument will also hold good in respect to the use of insects, which are to be found in the manufacture of every kind of agricultural implement which is at present in much demand, and his work is pretty generally distributed.



Whitman's Horse Power and Separator.

WHITMAN'S PATENT HORSE POWER AND SEPARATOR.

The accompanying cut represents Whitman's Patent Horse Power and Separator, the same which he has advertised in the Farmer, to which we would refer our readers for such particulars as those about purchasing would like to know. This invention has been some years before the public and has stood the test of severe operation, both by those who know how and some who did not know how to operate such apparatus. The large number manufactured and sold at Mr. Whitman's establishment in Winthrop, is proof of the estimation in which they are held by grain growers, in all sections of the United States, for they have been sold to persons in almost every State. Many have also been sold to go into different parts of the British Provinces. Wherever used, we infer from the testimonial given, they have given very general satisfaction.

The adoption of the different kinds of machinery for the threshing and cleansing of grain, though made slowly and cautiously at first by farmers, is now very general; very few indeed, who raise even a small quantity of grain, think of adopting the old, slow and tedious mode of pounding it out with a flail, and waiting for the uncertain wind for cleansing power in removing it. The flail, and the fan, and the hand winnowing machine are getting too obsolete, and rather behind the times. Horse-power, and steam-power, and sometimes water-power are brought into use, and by the aid of the improved machinery invented for and adapted to this purpose, the work is accomplished with comparative ease and despatch. This diminishes the cost of getting grain into the market, and hence there are two profits obtained.

A profit to the grain grower by the reduced cost in cleansing, and a profit to the consumer by some diminution in the price from what it would have been, had not these inventions been put into practice.

The successful application of machinery in this department of agricultural industry, has induced farmers to become less incredulous in regard to the use of machinery, designed for other uses in agricultural operations, and of course created more call for labor saving implements.

Mr. Whitman has therefore engaged largely in the manufacture of every kind of agricultural implement which is at present in much demand, and his work is pretty generally distributed.

APPLE TREES KILLED.

MR. EDITOR.—Your correspondent B. F. G. inquires, "What has killed so many apple trees—the winter or spring?" I answer, neither, but the fall. On entering the field the next hay season, what was my surprise to find the old fog still visible, with the spires of grass hardly near enough to be called neighbors, which rendered it nearly impossible to mow what grass there was.

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I have a nursery of grafted apple trees that have been well last year, and the bark of some of which, on the morning after our first freezing night last fall, I found to be burst open from the surface of the ground up, from a half inch to an inch and a half. A few of these, on examination this spring, I find, have the bark thrown off from the wood entirely, from the surface of the ground an inch or two up, and they are dead, of course. In other cases there appears only a split in the bark, and the trees have come out well.

While at work on trees in this neighborhood, I have found other and larger trees that have suffered in the same way—several inches in diameter, with the bark completely detached from the wood from the surface of the ground, several inches up.

From this, and what I have formerly seen, I am satisfied that the trees are neither winter killed nor spring killed, but fall killed. Our first hard freezing nights last fall, came on when the ground was full of water and the trees full of sap. The ground froze to the depth of several inches the first snap, and 'twas then the injury was done, in my opinion, Mr. Sears' opinion to the contrary, notwithstanding.

The persons I particularly noticed on the fair grounds, were Gov. John A. King, of New York, Horace Greeley, and Capt. George Head, war chief of the Oneida Indians. Gov. King was on the Executive Committee. He is extensively engaged in farming on Long Island. I should judge him to be about 65 years of age, yet seems to possess all the buoyancy, and sprightliness, and even mirthfulness of some very young person, and, by his funny observations and pleasant remarks, never fails to make his company agreeable. His dress was the same as other farmers.

Pointed out to clover which is very highly prized by English teaasters—so much so that they care very little about "corn," while there is plenty of clover in the leaf. Their method is to eat the first blossoms begin to turn brown; never spread, but pitch it into small crocks, say fifty pounds each, or what will make about a dozen—treats the facts very well remember. In these cases, as now, trees that were making the greatest growth suffered the most; trees that had been lately grafted, or that had made great growth from other causes—tender varieties faring hardest under the same circumstances. I recollect in particular, that about one half the trees in a large orchard, that had been plowed and manured liberally a year or two before, were destroyed.

I think, if B. F. G. and others who have trees killed, will examine them, they will generally find the bark does not adhere to the wood near the ground, as it does when a tree is killed by borers, or dies for want of nourishment.

This may not be true in all cases, and if true in but few, would not disprove the theory that hard freezing when the trees were full of sap, was not the cause of the fatality. I think an apple tree, when the sap is all "down," as it is termed, or all elaborated, will bear as low a temperature as any that Dr. Kane found in the Arctic regions, without suffering. N. Foster.

Gardiner, June 25, 1857.

THE TURKS HAVE Apecular method for making mortar. They fresh slaked lime, hydraulic, 1 part, by measure; brick or tile pounded and finely sifted, 1 part; and chopped tow, sufficient to mix into the consistency of ordinary hair mortar. These ingredients are mixed dry immediately before they are used; and when about to be used incorporated with water. When they desire to make cement, they add oil to the above in place of water.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

NEWSPAPER.



AUGUSTA.
THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 30, 1857.

KENNEBEC & PORTLAND RAILROAD.
MEETING OF BONDHOLDERS. A meeting of the holders of the second mortgage bonds issued by the K. & P. R. R. Co., on the 13th of October, 1852, was held at the depot in Brunswick, on Thursday of last week. The Bath Tribune has a full report of the meeting, from which we make the following synopsis:

The meeting was organized by the choice of Hon. David Bronson, of Bath, Moderator; John Dorr, of Augusta, Clerk.

A committee chosen for the purpose reported the whole amount of bonds represented to be \$151,400; bondholders present, 33.

Mr. John L. Cutler, of Augusta, by appointment, reported that 4371 of the coupons payable in April and October, 1856, presented at the Treasurer's Office more than 90 days previous to this meeting, remained unpaid.

Hon. Reuel Williams, of Augusta, presented the following resolve:

Resolved, That the Trustees upon its being proved to them that the coupons or bonds, or any of them, to have been or remain dishonest, enter upon and take possession of said road and property belonging to them, on the 1st of September next, for the purpose of running and managing the same in behalf of the bondholders.

Considerable discussion ensued. In response to a call from Mr. Evans, the Trustees, through Mr. Keen, of Brunswick, presented the following report of their doings since last September, at which time they assumed the direction of the road:

In accordance with the vote of the bondholders of July 15, 1856, the Trustees entered into an arrangement with Mr. Williams and the Directors, and came into possession of the road on the 1st of September last. The Directors were to run the road and Mr. Williams receive the earnings and disbursements in the payment of current expenses, to take up all and other compensation. A large amount of coupons are held by the hands of Mr. Williams and others which had been previously taken up and paid for by them, and are now held against the persons or corporations bound to pay them. Of these Mr. Williams will make a particular statement.

The year has been a disastrous and discouraging one for railroads. The following is a summary account of receipts and expenditures since Sept. 1:

Receipts for 10 months, \$178,522.30

Total, \$216,522.30

Expenses for ten months, \$111,273.77
" for July and August, 20,000.00
Paid R. Williams for use of furniture, 18,000.00

Total, \$149,273.77

Leaving for the year an estimated balance of \$67,248.62.

Demands having prior claim on the road are: City and town coupons, \$48,000.00; Interest in Yarmouth road, 12,144.00; Sinking fund, 11,320.00

Total, \$71,464.00

Leaving a deficiency of \$4,213.38

If this is correct, it presents a discouraging picture; yet the Trustees feel assured that a considerable amount may be saved in the expenses of the ensuing year, not much if any short of \$18,000, at the present amount of income. The road bed we may have to go on an ever. A large amount of bills have gone to the road and laid aside, probably remains for future use for 3 or 4 years. Should business revive we may expect an increased income of 12 per cent. over the present year, making the estimate for the next year as follows:

Receipts present year, \$216,522.30

12 per cent. addition, 23,900.00

Total, \$242,422.30

Expenses this year, \$149,273.77
Estimated reduction, 18,000.00

Total, \$131,273.77

leaving a net income of \$222,148.62. The amount of prior liabilities is it stated, are \$71,464.00, which leaves a balance of \$39,684.62 to be applied in payment of other demands.

In reply to a question, Mr. Williams stated that \$11,325, to make good the sinking fund, which should have been paid last July, had not been paid, and that \$11,325 more should be paid the last day of the present month.

In reply to a question as to how the saving of \$18,000 was to be made, Mr. Mc Keen replied to his querist as follows:

"I can tell you part. Part perhaps it is not best to mention it, but the road will be saving us money under the estimate for the year. Expenses has shown us that dry wood for engines is 50 per cent. better than wet. During the last year Mr. Lambard has constructed sheds along the road so we can next year avail ourselves of this. Again it is proposed that the proprietors of the Yarmouth branch relinquish their dividends for 14 years to provide a fund for the purpose of forming the new propertied interest in Portion, and it is understood that this proposal is now assented to. By connecting at the P. S. & P. R. depots in front of the city there will be an annual saving of from \$4000 to \$6000. We will call it \$5000."

Having thus shown a saving of \$11,000, the gentleman enquiring professed himself satisfied. Some further discussion ensued, and Mr. Williams' resolve was adopted.

Messrs. J. W. Bradbury, of Augusta; Robert Thompson, of Gardiner; and Wm. D. Sawall of Bath, were appointed a committee to act in cooperation with the Trustees, to ascertain and report a future adjourned meeting what arrangements can be made in regard to running and managing the road hereafter.

The meeting was then adjourned, to meet at the same place on Saturday, August 8, at 9 o'clock A.M.

The Portland Argus gives the following statement of the present condition of the affairs of this company:

In order that our readers may understand how the affairs of this corporation are situated, we will state that the first mortgage of this road is on that portion of it leading from Yarmouth to this city. The mortgage was given for building that portion of the road, and amounts to the sum of \$202,400.

The next mortgage is that to the cities and towns, and to have a fair credit to the road. This mortgage is on the whole length of the road, and the bonds amount to \$300,000.

Another mortgage of the road was made Oct. 15, 1851, to secure the payment of bonds and coupons thereon, issued by the Company. The bonds issued under this date amount to \$230,000. These are the first mortgage bonds issued by the Company.

On the 13th of October, 1852, a further issue of bonds to the amount of \$250,000 was made by the Company, and another mortgage of the road made to secure the payment of these bonds, and also of the coupons attached to the same. These are called the second mortgage bonds issued by the Company, and it was the desire of these last named bonds who were called together at this meeting.

GREEN CORN. Mr. E. A. Nason of this city presented us on Monday last, with a specimen of green corn from his garden, large enough for cooking. This is the first in the field, this season.

NEW PATENT. We notice in the latest list of new patents, one granted to Franklin B. Kendall, of Bath, for improved sawing mill.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

INCIDENTS IN WHITE MOUNTAIN HISTORY. We have received a copy of an interesting work, with the above title, from the publisher, Nath'l Noyes, Boston. It contains a history of events connected with the settlements in the vicinity of the White Mountains, with sketches of the prominent settlers. Also, a number of White Mountain anecdotes and incidents, of much interest.

A guide to the Mountains, and table of routes, distances, fares, &c., are added, which will be of much service to the tourist. The author of the work is a brother of the Mr. Willey who, with his family, were buried by the avalanche at the Notch, some thirty years ago. The book may be procured in this city, through C. A. Pierce, news agent.

NATIONAL MAGAZINE. The August number of this periodical is at hand, well filled with choice original and selected matter, and illustrated by sixteen well-executed wood engravings, among them a portrait of the ex-editor, Rev. Abel Stevens. This is one of the best of the numerous publications of the day, and worthy of introduction to every family circle. Published by Carlton & Porter, New York, at \$2 a year.

PANORAMA OF LITERATURE—August. An able paper upon the Atlantic Ocean, and the important discoveries of Lieut. Maury and Dr. Kane, from the Edinburgh Review, is the leading article of the present number. Then follow a description of the Great Eastern: "Pedestrianism in Switzerland;" "Mr. Gilpin's Love Story;"—conclusion; a biography of Sir John Franklin: "Christianity in China, Tartary and Thibet;"—"The Laird's Seam;"—"Human Longevity;"—"Vision of a Studious man;" and numerous poetical and prose selections, both interesting and valuable. Published by Littell, Son & Co., Boston, at \$3 a year.

PATRIFINDER RAILWAY GUIDE. With the July number have been made several important changes in the shape and arrangement of this work, that make it more convenient and indispensable to travelers in New England than ever. Among the new features are several new and neatly engraved railway maps of New England and part of Canada, showing all the railroads in operation, or projected. It is published by G. K. Snow, 22 Court St., Boston, at 5 cents a number, and valuable. Published by Littell, Son & Co., Boston, at \$3 a year.

DAMAGES BY LIGHTNING. We have not, for a great while, known of a storm in which so much injury was done by lightning as in that of the 20th inst. In addition to the damages reported in our last, we gather the following from our State exchanges:

The Belfast Journal states that during the storm of the 20th, the house of Mr. George W. Reed, in that city, was struck by the lightning, which killed a son of Mr. Reed's, twelve years of age, and severely injured an older son. The fluid passed down the chimney, and thence down the stairs—the deceased being in the act of ascending the stairs at the time. The house was but little injured.

The Portland Advertiser mentions the following singular circumstance connected with the same storm:—

During the late thunder storm, the lightning struck the dwelling house of Mr. George Purtington, of Black Strap, Falmouth, taking off the boarding on the front of the house, entered a room, where Mr. Purtington and two of his children were sitting, and a dog lying under a chair was killed. A daughter in an adjoining room was prostrated by the shock. No further injury was caused, except knocking an ornament off a stove, and demolishing a wash bowl.

The Bangor Courier, of the 22d, says:—

On Monday evening, during the severe thunder storm, the lightning struck the dwelling house of Gen. Samuel Veazie, at Veazie—knocked off a part of the chimney; passing into the front parlor in which Gen. Veazie was sleeping, and a dog lying under a chair was killed. A daughter in an adjoining room was prostrated by the shock, that is, put it forward so that the heel will cut next to the standing grass on the right; keep the point up and the heel down, so as to cut the stubble a little lower next to you, and of course you will make no "mole paths;" never carry your scythe back to the right farther than the width of your swath, carry your scythe nearly straight across the grass and not swing it away round, and carry the portion of the collar stairs. No person was injured; but the escape may be considered a narrow one.

The hand of Mr. Timothy Hazelton, of Dover was struck, and one of his oxen, valued at \$75, killed. Mr. John Annis, of Hermon Pond, had a horse killed, in the shower of the 20th, valued at \$125.

Besides the damage by the storm of the past week, we have accounts of other losses within a few days. A large barn, owned by Mr. Blethen, of Thorndike, was struck and completely consumed. The house of Col. Joshua Lane of Hampden, was damaged by lightning. A correspondent of the Portland Advertiser, writing from Pownal, says that vicinity has been visited with much lightning, causing the death of many cattle. Hon. Joseph Brown, lost four, N. Dyer, three, and D. T. Libby one,—all within one half mile of each other—and were all probably killed at the same time.

Some damage was also done in New Hampshire. During the shower of the 20th, in Walpole, a man named Gates, was struck by lightning and instantly killed. A brother of Mr. G., who was near by, was also severely injured, having been struck about the same time, and a little girl badly stunned, but it is thought she will recover.

On Saturday, the 17th inst., the Flume House, in Franconia Notch, N. H., was struck by lightning, and two men, Mr. W. H. Smith, of the firm of Davis, Wright & Co., Boston, and Mr. Blanton, clerk of the house, were instantly killed. Mr. Smith, in company with his wife, had just arrived, on a pleasure trip, and had only been at the Flume about half an hour at the time of the sad occurrence.

GRAND FIREMEN'S TRIALS. We understand that a general trial of fire engines is to come off at Newport, in this State, on the 6th of August, in which every company in the State is invited to participate, and handsome prizes are may certainly be bestowed by it. A MOWER. Phillips, July 4, 1857.

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA AND EUROPE. The steamships Illinois, at New York, and North American, at Quebec, bring later advices from California and Europe, but we are obliged to defer a summary until our next. The news is of great importance in either case.

The developments of the late conspiracy in France show that it was the most formidable ever to threaten the safety of the nation.

From India, the advices are that the British army was slowly overrunning the insurgents among whom the loss of life had been very great. From China, we learn that the U. S. frigate San Jacinto, in company with a number of English gun boats, had gone up Canton river to attack some Chinese junks. Cotton was buoyant in England, and breadth declining. Sugar had in sixty-eight years old, and is nearly dead in great quantity.

A OLD VESSEL. The British bark William and Ann is now on the large Balance Dock at New York, for repairs. She will be recoupled and newly copped. She was formerly an English frigate, and is now one hundred years old. She still retains her original timbers, which are of white oak, and are perfectly sound. Her planking is sixty-eight years old, and is nearly dead in great quantity.

Famine in China. The Friend of China of May 9, received by the last overland mail, says that the famine prevailing in that country exceeds all that the oldest living man has ever witnessed.

The rebels are making progress, the capital of the province of Kwang-Si, Kwai-Lung, having fallen into their hands. In the province of Kwang-Tung, the famine is so severe that even the women are forming themselves in bands of robbers, and have seized the sword and gone forth plundering in order to obtain sustenance.

SALTY GAZETTE. The 20th says that arrangements are to be made for raising the Steamship City of Philadelphia, now quite ready, will be drawn through the rollers, some four or five inches in diameter, and set only about 3-15 of an inch apart. The fingers were drawn in, (the thumb escaping) and a portion of the palm of the hand, before the other boy could stop the machine. He was horribly crushed, the skin being torn from the fingers, and the bones broken. The flesh literally crushed from the palm, and under the points of two other fingers, also, probably broken. He was some minutes before his torture was relieved from his tortures, his companion having given notice to his father and Mr. Purish, who was there at once, and set him free. None of Mr. Harmon's men were in the shop at the time. That poor boy has suffered less than it was anticipated he would, but it is yet somewhat doubtful whether it will be possible to save all his fingers. (Brunswick Telegraph.)

Caution to Bathers. An adopted son of Joseph Hamilton, of North Dixmont, Me., met his death last week in a very singular manner. He with other boys went into the water to bathe, and remaining a long time, was taken with severe pains, so much so that he could not walk. He was carried home and lingered three days in great agony.

Street Encounter between Editors. Louisville, July 21. A street encounter occurred this afternoon between George D. Prentiss, editor of the Journal, and R. D. Durratt, editor of the Courier, growing out of an article in the latter's paper, reflecting on Mr. Prentiss. Pistols were used by both parties. Mr. Prentiss was slightly wounded. Louisville, July 23. Mr. Prentiss of the Journal, and Mr. Durratt of the Courier, were arrested this evening, and held in the sum of three thousand dollars each to keep the peace.

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NIGHTLY INSANITY. The inmates of the Presumpscot House, at Sacarappa, say the Argosy, were alarmed on Wednesday night by an unusual noise in the house. Upon instituting a search to discover the cause, they found that a man who was occasionally troubled with insanity, and who had taken lodgings there on that occasion, had bolted his door from the outside, and had mounted from the window to the top of the building, where he was fighting with some imaginary being in the handiest manner possible. He was pursued by the landlord to return to his room.

SERIOUS, indeed. In correcting the proof, last week, our devil made us say that "hanging was a serious affair with our contemporary of the Dexter Gem." We meant to say "hanging," but hanging is a serious affair, to most folks, and we presume Bro. Witherspoon is no exception to the rule.

COMMENCEMENT AT WATERVILLE. The annual commencement at Waterville is to take place, this year, on Wednesday, August 12. The graduating class numbers eighteen, being rather larger than usual. An oration will be delivered by Prof. Rawson, of the Newton Theological Seminary, and a poem by Rev. John Pierpont. The Salem Brass Band, P. S. Gilmore leader, is to furnish the music, and will also give a grand concert on commencement evening, for the benefit of the graduating class.

DEATH OF MRS. W. P. FESSENDEN. The Argus announces the sudden death, on Thursday last, at the Glen House, Gorham, N. H., of the wife of Hon. W. P. Fessenden. Mrs. F. has been in feeble health for some time past. She was the youngest daughter of the late James Deering, Esq., of Westbrook, and was about 38 years of age.

TALL RYE. Mr. C. M. Adams, of Dixmont, sends us a specimen of rye, which measures 6 ft. 9 inches in height, the tallest stalks, and appears very thrifty.

FOR THE MAINE FARMER.

MOWING.

As most of the mowing in our State and country is done by hand, a few brief remarks upon the science may not be amiss. It is of the first importance to have a good scythe, every part of the edge should be of good even temper, of medium length, and crooked at the point. It is almost impossible to mow well and easy with a straight pointed scythe, let it be ever so well tempered.

The next thing is to grind it well, and in order to do this a good grindstone is indispensable. Next is a good hand to turn. Some attempt to grind with a weak hand, or to turn for themselves, but it is next to impossible to grind quick and well with a weak hand, or to turn for one's self. After a new scythe has been ground well, it may be ground the next time in ten or fifteen minutes.

The scythe should be held on the stone with a steady, firm hand, and just as they hold them at the factory, that is, straight across the stone, and the edge next to you, while the stone is turned from you. Begin to grind at the edge first, and run the bevel back till you get it wide enough; then the scythe edge feathers it, which should never be done, but it is next to impossible to grind quick and well with a weak hand, or to turn for one's self.

The Telegraphic Cable. A letter has been received at the Navy Department from the Commander of the Niagara, representing all hands as excellent, and ready to be sent to the coast of China.

Admitted to Bail. In the Municipal Court of Boston, on Saturday, Robert Sullivan, one of the persons who outraged Ellen Desmond, was admitted to bail in \$1200. That Ellen Desmond outrage was one of the most terrible crimes ever committed in the world; but there seem to be no indications of severe punishment thereof.

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THE MAINE

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ST. LOUIS. July 24. Latest advices from Kansas report all quiet. Gov. Walker was still at Lawrence, with 400 dragoons, awaiting further action of the people before resorting to decisive measures. He would attempt the collection of taxes in a few days.

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KANSAS NEWS.

CATHERINE MERCIER.

[CONCLUDED FROM FOURTH PAGE.]

The young soldier had gone at once to his mother's house to relieve his fears, and get some necessary food, but he would not stay to eat. "No, mother," said he, "I have no money, and her life has been granted to our parents; there are thousands of helpless women and children in danger and distress, and in every gratitude I must go and do my best to succor them."

Three days and night did he labor among the suffering population of his native city. Where danger was the greatest and misery the deepest, was Victor, battling with the floods, helping those who seemed to have need to help them; cheering the fainting, reviving the fallen, and saving the drowning.

The court-martial showed between 20 and 30,000 voters. It is determined to re-submit the Topeka Constitution in August to the people.

Gen. Lane had been authorized to organize the people thoroughly to defend the ballot boxes at the territorial election.

ST. LOUIS. July 21. Kansas advises that the Municipal ticket was elected at Lawrence on the 13th. Mr. Blood is Mayor.

The State Convention finished its session at Topeka on Thursday, having previously endorsed the Topeka Constitution, and recommending its resubmission to the people at the August election.

Marcus Parrot was nominated for a seat in Congress. The city government at Lawrence had not passed any act or done any business whatever.

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THE MAINE FARMER, AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Muse.

A FESTIVAL POEM.

BY DR. G. W. HOLMES.

At the triennial festival of the alumni of Harvard College, on the 16th inst., in reply to one of the toasts of the day, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes read the following characteristic poem, which was received with great applause:

I thank you, Mr. President, you've kindly broke the ice;

Virtue should always be the first—I've only second vice—(A vice is something with a screw that's made to hold its jaw.)

Till some old file has play'd away upon an ancient saw.)

Sweet brothers by the mother's side, the babes of days gone by,

All nursing of her Juno broods whose milk is never dry,

We come again, like half-grown boys, and gather at her boc;

About her knees, and on her lap, and clinging round her dearest.

We find her at her stately door, and in her ancient chair,

Dressed in the robes of red and green she always loves to wear.

Her eye has all its radiant youth, her cheek its morning flame;

We drop our roses as we go, her's flourish still the same;

We have been playing many an hour, and far away we've strayed,

Some laughing in the cheerful sun, some lingering in the shade;

And some have tired, and laid them down where darker shades fall—

Dear as her loving voice may be, they cannot hear its call.

What miles we've traveled since we shook the dew-drops from our shoes!

We gathered on this classic green, so famed for heavy dues!

How many boys have joined the game, how many slipped away,

Since we've been running up and down, and having out our play!

One boy at work with book and brief, and one with gown and hand,

One sailing vessel on the pool, one digging in the sand,

One flying paper kites on change, one planting little pills,—

The seeds of certain annual flowers well known as little pills.

What maidens met us on our way, and clasped us hand in hand?

What cherubs—not the legless kind, that fly, but never stand!

How many a youthful head we've seen put on its silver crown!

What sudden changes back again to youth's empruned brawn!

But fairer sights have met our eyes, and broader lights have shone,

Since others lit their midnight lamps where once we tripped out;

A thousand trains that flap the sky with flags of rushing fire,

And throbbing in the Thunderer's hand, Thought's will-ironed chord.

We've seen the sparks of Empire fly beyond the mountain bars,

Till, glittering o'er the Western wave, they joined the setting stars;

And ocean trod into paths that trampling giants ford To find the planet's vertebral and sink its spinal cord.

We've tried reform—and chordom—and both have turned our brain;

When France decked up the photograph, we roused the gods to pain;

Just as those earlier sages shared the chapter of renown, Heirs sent a blinder to the clouds, ours brought their lightning down.

We've seen the little tricks of life, its varnish and veneer,

Its scree-fronts of character flake off and disappear;

We've learned that oft the brownest hands will heap the biggest pile,

And met with many a "perfect brick" beneath a rimless "tile."

What dreams we've had of deathless name, as scholars, statesmen, bards,

While Fame, the lady with the trump, held up her picture card!

Till, having nearly played our game, she gaily whistled "Ah!

I said you should be something grand—you'll soon be grand-papa."

Well, well, the old had their day, the young must take their turn;

There's something always to forget, and something still to learn;

But how tell what's old or young, the tap-root from the spring;

Since Florida revealed her fount to Ponce de Leon Twigg;

The west was a Frenchman once, just freed from hair and bolt,

As noisy as a kettle drum, as leggy as a colt;

Don't be too savage with the boys—the Primer does not say

The kitten ought to go to church because "the cat doth pray."

The rule of merit and of age is not the rule of three;

Nor const that A. M. must prove as busy as B. A.

When wise the father tracked the son, ballyhooing thro' the skies,

He taught a lesson to the old—go thou and do like Wise!

Now then, old boys, and reverend youth, of high or low degree,

Remember how only one can aoutual out of three,

And such as dare to sinmer down three diners into one,

Must eat their salads mighty short, and pepper well with fun.

I've passed my senith long ago, it's time for me to set;

A dozen planets wait to shine, and I am langering yet.

As sometimes in the blaze of day a milk-and-water moon

Stains with its dim and fading ray the lustrous blue of noon.

Farewell—yet let one echo rise to shake our ancient hall;

God gave the Queen—whose throne is hero—the Mother of us all!

Till dawns the great Commencement-day on every shore.

And see, and sea,

And "Expectant" all mankind, to take their last Degree!

The Story Teller.

CATHARINE MERCIER.

A TALE OF THE INCUNATIONS IN FRANCE.

Lyon, the second city in France, and the seat of the celebrated manufacture in silks, is built principally upon a tongue of land formed by the confluence of the Saone with the Rhone, a situation of great advantage commercially, as it affords the facility of water communication both with the Mediterranean and the Atlantic; but from the low level upon which most of the city stands, and from the rapid, and often swollen currents of the rivers, it has frequently been the scene of most terrible inundations. Embankments have been formed at various points to guard the city from its watery foes; but, though useful in restraining any ordinary rise, they are totally inadequate to protect the lower parts of the place from the powerful floods which occasionally overwhelm the unprepared inhabitants, causing such loss of life and property as can scarcely be imagined by the people at a distance. Lyons has, however, even a more terrible element than even the angry waters running through her streets.

In 1751, when Collet d'Herbois and his terrorist associates held their tribunal in the Hotel de Ville, the executions were so numerous that human blood was poured forth like water, and with its crimson current flooded the Place des

"And do you think she remembers me?" asked Victor.

"Pray do you think?" said his mother smiling, "that the prettiest girl in Lyons, who might have been married twenty times, would come and spend all her Sundays and free days with a stupid old woman, if that old woman had not a certain absent soldier son?"

Victor laughed as he seized his bright little mother in his arms, and kissed her again and again. "Ah! but you know," said he, "that she was a sad girl four years ago, and I have always heard that such a disease increases with age."

But the open fields which witnessed these guilty deeds are open fields no more. Though the city at the time of the Revolution was confined to the narrow tongue of land between the rivers, it has, since the commencement of the present century, extended to the left bank of the Rhone, and the populous and stately districts of Les Brotteaux and La Guillotin are connected with the parent city by several handsome bridges. The faubourg of Les Brotteaux is built upon the very ground on which the revolutionary massacre took place, the memory of which it preserves in a monumental chapel, erected at the end of a street called "the Avenue des Martyrs." Stately buildings are arising on all sides, but, as in the city itself, the more retired streets are narrow and dirty, with tall houses on either hand, making perfect twilight, containing family above family in their eight, nine or ten flats, until an almost incredible population dwells upon a very small superficial space of ground.

The sun was setting one evening during the last week in May, 1856. Heavy rains had poured down hopelessly the whole day, and the sky was dark and lowering, except in the west where the sun had broken through the clouds, after many struggles, to throw his welcome light upon the city for a few minutes. His rays were but feeble, for the same relentless rain which had just ceased had prevailed for many days, and the air seemed saturated. New-born rivulets ran down the narrow streets, finding their way to the great swollen, yellow Rhone, which coursed along with accelerated speed to its ocean home. But, as butterflies come forth to the summer sun, so did the gay inhabitants of Lyons pour forth to enjoy for a short the fresh air mixed with rain, and the streets were crowded. Amongst the many foot passengers who were crossing the Point Morand, was a young soldier, walking briskly in the direction of Les Brotteaux. His regiments were faded and worn, having evidently seen hard service. His face was sunburnt, but a pleasant one without, to look at, and the smiling mouth, just over shadowed by a juvenile moustache, and the sparkling, intelligent eyes, seemed to say that he—Victor Chaperon—was in high good humor with himself and all the world. And certainly, if any one had reason to be happy and thankful, it was he; for he had just returned in honor and safety from the Crimea, and was on his way to Les Brotteaux to see Catherine Mercier, who, four years before, when he left Lyons, had almost promised to be his bride.

Victor Chaperon was the son of a soldier who was killed in the riots of the silk weavers at Lyons, in 1834. His mother, previous to her marriage, had been femme-de-chambre in a nobleman's family in the country, and when she was left a widow, with an infant in her arms, her former mistress showed her great kindness, established her as a "ligner" (a get-up of fine linen) in the suburb of Fourviers, introducing her to the notice of several influential families in the neighborhood. Jeannine's industry and skill procured her plenty of customers, and she was thus enabled not only to support her child honestly, but also to give him the advantage of a good education. When Victor reached the age of fifteen, nothing would satisfy him but that he must be a soldier, as his father had been before him; and after many a struggle, and much secret grief, his mother gave her consent. To lose her cheerful boy, was a hard trial to the poor woman, but she bore it with true resignation, and instead of folding her hands in despair, only worked more diligently that she might lay a store for her only child. For three years she saw him frequently, as his regimen was stationed at Lyons, or in some neighboring place; but after that time it was to Marselles; and, when in two years, the war broke out with Russia, she received a hasty line from Victor, to say that he was to embark that day for the Crimea, without the opportunity of bidding her farewell. It was indeed with an anxious and loving heart that the poor mother joined her prayers to the many strong supplications which rose from all parts of the land for the safety of loved ones who were fighting in the far off East. Occasionally she heard from her son, who wrote whenever he had time; but sometimes the letters were lost, and sometimes they were written on the eve of an assault, and then came the sickening suspense as to the result. But at last all Frères rang with the glad tidings that Sébastopol was taken—taken, however, with such a loss of life, that many a widow and orphan were the fruits of all his valiant efforts.

On reaching the other side, he passed through the more stately streets to the quarter of La Petite California, which is situated to the east of Lyon, and, when it was dispatched, he sent his mother a line to the general entrance of the third floor on the left-hand side. Like most of the houses in Lyons, it was constructed of wooden framing filled in with bricks, and consisted of nine flats, (stories,) which rose in dizzy height, though some of the neighboring tenements were even higher. So densely populated was the street that, though erected within the last forty years the houses had a stained look, as if they had been here since the Rhone risen several feet since he had crossed it earlier in the evening, and, when he re-entered Lyons, the streets were unusually thronged with people, some transporting furniture and goods from the lower parts of the town, which were flooded, others collecting in shivering groups which had made his manner cold and constrained. But he was too much hurt to examine how far he was himself to blame, so dashed on, regardless of everything but his own bitter thoughts. Had he been less engrossed, he would have observed much around him to raise alarm. Already had the Rhone risen several feet since he had crossed it earlier in the evening, and, when he re-entered Lyons, the streets were unusually thronged with people, some transporting furniture and goods from the lower parts of the town, which were flooded, others collecting in shivering groups which had made his manner cold and constrained. But he was too much hurt to examine how far he was himself to blame, so dashed on, regardless of everything but his own bitter thoughts. Had he been less engrossed, he would have observed much around him to raise alarm. 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